



## 2023 Anniversary Summer How to Use This Toolkit

Welcome to Anniversary Summer! This year marks the 58th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid and the 88th anniversary of Social Security. The Alliance will work all summer to support your efforts to celebrate these milestones as a means to protect, strengthen, and expand the programs and earned benefits of all Americans.

This toolkit contains three sections. The first section contains all the fact sheets and position papers you will need this summer. The second contains mobilization materials for holding zoom or in person anniversary events and present Zero/Hero awards and in the third section you will find everything needed to request, hold and report on virtual district lobby meetings with representatives.

### **Mobilization**

#### **Our Earned Benefits**

Included in this toolkit is the Alliance's powerful new [3-minute video about Social Security](#). It covers the facts about Social Security and the current threats that it is facing from politicians who are willing to jeopardize the benefits that seniors, disabled workers, and their families rely on, all for their own political gain. We encourage you to use this video as a tool to help get the word out about the importance of protecting and expanding Social Security. Share the video with your members, and use it along with the included PowerPoint to present to current and potential Alliance affiliates.

#### **Planning your Anniversary Event**

This toolkit contains a planning guide, sample agenda, and ideas to help get you started on planning your celebrations and actions. Also included is our Keep Your Promise Event planning guide. We encourage you to hold events that demand that Congress keeps its hands off our earned benefits!

#### **Sharing Your Story**

Personal stories about how Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid affect us help highlight why we are advocates. For this reason, we have included our Personal Storytelling mini-kit. Before your anniversary events or legislative lobby visits, take time in a group to go through this mini-kit and for everyone to use the worksheet to outline one of their stories. As you and your group collect and hone your personal stories, share them at [retiredamericans.org/stories](https://retiredamericans.org/stories).

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Anniversary Summer is a great season for writing letters to your area editors. Included in this toolkit are sample letters that correspond to the legislation on retiree issues in play this summer outlined throughout this toolkit.



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### Lobby Visits

#### Scheduling Your Visit

The toolkit contains a summer legislative calendar, lobby visit guide, and report back form. Once you've read through all the materials, contact your local congressional offices and request virtual or in-person meetings for your group with members of the House, Senate and/or their staff. The Alliance Zoom account is available to host your meetings if it is helpful. [Use this tracker for this and any other requests](#). Hold a pre-visit meeting with your group to organize speaking order and asks. Bring the lobby day talking points and fact sheets and report back form to your meeting.

#### Reporting Back

Be sure to take a picture of your visit. Debrief with your group immediately following your visit to ensure you have all the responses for the report back form. Complete the [online report back form](#) and send pictures to [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org).

### Fact Sheets & Position Papers

- **Republican Study Committee Budget** – This year, the Republican Study Committee proposed a budget that would, if enacted, increase Social Security's full retirement age to 69 and subsidize private insurance options to compete with traditional Medicare, potentially transforming the program into a type of privatized voucher program.
- Updated June 2023, All you need to know about Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid:
  - **2023 Social Security and Medicare Facts and Figures**
  - **Social Security Current Facts and Figures**
  - **Medicare Facts and Figures**
  - **Medicaid Fact Sheet**
- **Expanding Social Security** – To continue to provide retirement security for current and future generations, it is time to strengthen and expand Social Security and increase benefits. Many members of Congress recognize the need for action and are proposing legislation that will ensure the Social Security system remains strong and Americans receive the benefits they have earned.
- **Threats to Social Security** – This Fact Sheet explains the most salient proposals which, if enacted, would threaten individual benefits as well as the foundation of the entire program.



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**Questions?** Email [Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org](mailto:Mobilization@RetiredAmericans.org) with any question or request.